

1

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備えたことを特徴とする透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項2】 基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備え、前記インク吐出手段により前記透明導電回路が形成された後、前記基板を加熱して該透明導電回路を熱処理することを特徴とする透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項3】 基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備え、前記基板を加熱すると共に前記透明導電インクを該加熱された基板上に吐出することにより、前記透明導電回路を形成すると共に該透明導電回路を熱処理することを特徴とする透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項4】 前記超微粒子は粒径0.1 μ m以下に形成された粒子であることを特徴とする請求項1乃至3記載の透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項5】 前記透明導電回路の膜厚は、前記吐出手段の吐出口の口径、吐出回数及び前記透明導電インクの超微粒子の含有量に応じて変更することができることを特徴とする請求項1乃至3記載の透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項6】 前記熱処理は、前記透明導電回路の酸化が抑えられる所定温度以下で行うことを特徴とする請求項2又は3記載の透明導電回路形成装置。

【請求項7】 前記熱処理は、300℃以下の温度で行うことを特徴とする請求項2又は3記載の透明導電回路形成装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置に関し、特に透明導電回路の形成方法に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】一般に液晶表示装置、プラズマ表示装置、太陽電池等においては、各種動作を行うために透明導電回路を有している。ここで、このような透明導電回

2

路の形成方法としては、例えば焼結体を用いてスパッタリングや蒸着により透明導電膜層を形成した後、フォトリソグラフィを用いて基板上にパターンニングを行う方法が知られている。しかし、このようなフォトリソグラフィによるパターンニングは、レジスト塗布、露光、現像、エッチング、レジスト剥離、洗浄等多数の工程が必要となるため、透明導電回路の製造費は高くなる。

【0003】一方、近年、透明導電回路を形成する方法として、超微粉末を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクを基板上に塗布して焼成し、透明導電膜を形成する方法が開発されつつある。また、塗布した後、透明導電膜層上にレジスト液を印刷し乾燥することによりレジスト液を硬化させ、これを洗浄した後焼成することにより、透明導電回路を得ようとする方法が、例えば特開平5-291726等により提案されている。

【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、このような透明導電インクを用いて透明導電回路を形成する従来の透明導電回路形成装置においては、レジスト樹脂を酸分解するために300℃以上の焼成工程が必要となる。しかし、例えば液晶表示装置のディスプレイに用いられる染料タイプのカラーフィルター上に透明導電回路を形成する場合、カラーフィルターの耐熱温度が焼成温度以下であるため、この焼成工程においてフィルターが脱色してしまうという問題が生じる。

【0005】また、透明導電材料として、現在最もよく使用されているITO(In₂O₃+SnO₂)を用いた場合、300℃以上ではITO膜の酸化が促進され、抵抗率が上昇するという問題を生じる。さらに、ポストベークを行った上にスクリーン印刷を行うため、ITOインク層にまでアクリル樹脂が浸透し、低抵抗化を行うことが困難であるという問題もある。

【0006】なお、真空中に置かれたクヌードソンセル内にInとSnの混合物を装填し、加熱して、セルのスリットから断熱膨張させ、InとSnのクラスタを精製し、これをノズルから高压で噴出させ、酸素雰囲気中に置かれた基板上に透明導電膜を形成する提案が成されている(特開昭62-24505, 24506)。しかし、この方法では、成膜室とクラスタ精製室の2室が必要となり、装置が大型化するだけでなく、成膜速度を大きくすることができないため回路形成に長時間掛かってしまうという欠点がある。

【0007】本発明は、このような従来技術の問題を解決するものであり、多くの工程を必要とせず、かつ比較的低温で低抵抗の透明導電回路を形成することのできる透明導電回路形成装置を提供することを目的とするものである。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、透

明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備えたことを特徴とするものである。

【0009】また本発明は、基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備え、前記インク吐出手段により前記透明導電回路が形成された後、前記基板を加熱して該透明導電回路を熱処理することを特徴とするものである。

【0010】また本発明は、基板上に透明導電回路を形成する透明導電回路形成装置において、酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクと、前記透明導電インクを吐出して前記基板上に前記透明導電回路をパターン形成するインク吐出手段とを備え、前記基板を加熱すると共に前記透明導電インクを該加熱された基板上に吐出することにより、前記透明導電回路を形成すると共に該透明導電回路を熱処理することを特徴とするものである。

【0011】また本発明は、前記超微粒子は粒径0.1 μm 以下に形成された粒子であることを特徴とするものである。

【0012】また本発明は、前記透明導電回路の膜厚は、前記吐出手段の吐出口の口径、吐出回数及び前記透明導電インクの超微粒子の含有量に応じて変更することができることを特徴とするものである。

【0013】また本発明は、前記熱処理は、前記透明導電回路の酸化が抑えられる所定温度以下で行うことを特徴とするものである。

【0014】また本発明は、前記熱処理は、300℃以下の温度で行うことを特徴とするものである。

【0015】また、本発明のように、透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクをインク吐出手段にて吐出するように構成することにより、基板上に透明導電回路をパターン形成する。

【0016】また、酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクをインク吐出手段により吐出することにより、基板上に透明導電回路をパターン形成すると共に、透明導電回路が形成された後、基板を加熱することにより透明導電回路を熱処理して低抵抗の透明導電回路を形成する。

【0017】また、基板を加熱すると共に酸化物系透明導電性材料にて形成された超微粒子を溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インクをインク吐出手段により吐出することにより、透明導電回路を熱処理して基板上に低抵抗の透明導電回路のパターンを形成する。

【0018】また、パターン形成された透明導電回路の膜厚を、吐出手段の吐出口の口径、吐出回数及び透明導

電インクの超微粒子の含有量に応じて変更するようにする。さらに、所定温度以下で熱処理を行うことにより、透明導電回路の酸化を抑えるようにする。

【0019】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態を図面を用いて説明する。

【0020】図1は、本発明の実施の形態に係る透明導電回路形成装置の構成を示す図であり、同図において、1は透明導電インクを吐出するインク吐出手段であるインクジェット、2はインクジェット1のインク吐出口に臨むように配された基板、3はこの基板2をX-Y方向に移動させるX-Yステージである。

【0021】ここで、インクジェット1は、図2に示すように透明導電インク（以下インクという）4を加熱して泡Bを発生させ、その泡Bの圧力を利用してインク4を基板2に吐出させることにより基板2上に透明導電回路を形成するものである。

【0022】なお、このインクジェット1は、同図に示すようにインク4が充填されるインク収納部1aと、インク4を加熱するシートヒータ1bと、このシートヒータ1bに電源を供給する電源部1cと、この電源部1cのスイッチSWをオンオフして吐出回数（吐出周波数）を制御する吐出制御手段1dとを有している。

【0023】ところで、このインクジェット1にて形成される透明導電回路の膜厚は、インクジェット1のインク吐出口径dの大小、インク4の吐出周波数、インク4の超微粒子粉末の含有量によって決定される。例えば、低粘度のインク4を小口径の吐出口1eから1回吐出した場合には、0.1 μm 程度の膜厚にすることができる。なお、必要により膜厚を厚くする場合は、例えば吐出制御手段1dにより吐出回数を増やすようにして膜厚を厚くするようにする。

【0024】一方、この透明導電インク4は、粒径が0.1 μm 以下の透明導電材料にて形成された超微粒子粉末を親和性溶剤又は水に分散させたものであり、粘度は50～100cps程度である。なお、このような超微粒子粉末としては、ZnO、CdO、ZnS、CdS、SnO₂、InO₂、Cd₂SnO₄、ITO（In₂O₃-SnO₂）等の酸化物が使用される。特に、可視光透過率と表面抵抗の点でITOが望ましい。

【0025】また、透明導電性インク4に用いられる溶剤は、超微粒子粉末材との親和性を考慮して選定される。或いは、水にコロイドミル、ボールミル、サンドミル、ホモミキサー等の市販の粉砕器や超音波分散器等により強制的に分散させることも可能である。さらに、基板2は300℃以下の耐熱性を有するものであれば良く、ガラス、セラミック或いはアクリル、ポリイミドフィルム等を使用することができる。

【0026】そして、このようにインクジェット1を用いて基板2にパターンニングを行った後、透明導電インク

5

パターンを乾燥させると、均一な透明導電回路が形成され、簡単に剥がれない程度の強さで基板2と密着するようになる。

【0027】ところで、この透明導電インク4に含有される超微粒子粉末が酸化物系の場合、必要に応じて300℃以下で熱処理を行うようにしており、この熱処理により回路の残留溶剤がより完全に揮発すると共に回路の構造が結晶化されるため、より低抵抗の透明導電回路が形成されるようになる。

【0028】ここで、この熱処理は、透明導電回路の酸化が抑えられる所定温度である300℃以下の温度、好ましくは250℃以下で数分から120分程度行えばよい。なお、本装置においては、レジスト液を使用することはないので、このように比較的低温で低抵抗の透明導電回路を形成することができる。

【0029】そして、このような熱処理により形成された透明導電インクパターンは、均一な透明のものとなり、熱処理のないものに比べて、更に強固に基板2と密着するようになる。なお、この熱処理を300℃以上の温度で行った場合、インク4の酸化が促進され、材料の構造がストイキオメトリーに近づくため、キャリア濃度が減少し、抵抗率は大きく上昇するようになる。このため、熱処理は300℃以下で行うようにする必要がある。

【0030】次に、本実施の形態における実施例について説明する。

【0031】第1の実施例として、粒径25nmのITO超微粒子粉末固形成分5重量%を、水60重量%、n-メチルピロリドン20重量%、エチレングリコール15重量%の割合でサンドミルで4時間攪拌分散させたインク4を、インクジェット1で厚さ1mmのアクリル基板2上に吐出してパターンを形成した。

【0032】なお、インクジェット1のヘッドとしては、図3に示すように吐出口1eの口径20μm、ピッチ25μm、吐出口1eが100点直線上に並んだマルチヘッド1Aを用い、吐出周波数1000Hzで吐出させた。また、パターン形状は、図4に示すように線幅5mm、線間隔5mmのラインを平行に5本印字した。これを大気中で24時間乾燥して透明導電回路5のパターンを得た。

【0033】第2の実施例として、実施例1と同様の構成で、図5に示すようにパターン形状が線幅50μm、線間隔100μmのラインを平行に20本印字し、透明導電回路5のパターンを得た。

【0034】第3の実施例として、粒径20nmのITO超微粒子粉末固形成分5重量%を、水を溶媒として超音波分散器で2時間攪拌分散させたインク4を、インクジェット1にてコーニング社製無アルカリガラス(＃7059)基板2上に吐出してパターンを形成した。なお、インクジェット1のヘッドは実施例1と同様のもの

6

を用い、パターン形状は線幅5mm、線間隔5mmのラインを平行に5本印字した(図4参照)。これを95℃で30分乾燥硬化の後、200℃の温度で1時間加熱して、透明導電回路のパターンを得た。

【0035】第4の実施例として、粒径20nmのITO超微粒子粉末固形成分5重量%を、水を溶媒として超音波分散器で2時間攪拌分散させたインク4を、インクジェット1にてコーニング社製無アルカリガラス(＃7059)基板2上に吐出してパターンを形成した。

【0036】ここで、本実施例においては、インクジェット1でパターン形成中は基板2をホットプレート上に置き、250℃に加熱した。なお、インクジェットのヘッドは、実施例1と同様のものを用い、パターン形状は線幅5mm、線間隔5mmのラインを平行に5本印字し(図4参照)、透明導電回路のパターンを得た。

【0037】第5の実施例として、粒径100nmのITO超微粒子粉末固形成分5重量%を、水60重量%、n-メチルピロリドン20重量%、エチレングリコール15重量%の割合でサンドミルで4時間攪拌分散させたインクを、インクジェット1にてコーニング社製無アルカリガラス(＃7059)基板3上に吐出してパターンを形成した。

【0038】なお、インクジェット1のヘッドは、吐出口径50μm、ピッチ50μm、吐出周波数2000Hz、吐出口が100点、直線上に並んだマルチヘッドを用いた。パターン形状は、線幅5mm、線間隔5mmのラインを平行に20本印字した。ここで、本実施例としては、これを95℃で30分乾燥硬化の後、200℃の温度で1時間加熱して、透明導電回路のパターンを得た。

【0039】一方、第1の比較例として、粒径30nmのITO超微粒子粉末を有機溶剤に分散させてなる透明導電インク(東北化工(株)製DX-101)を、ガラス基板(旭硝子(株)製ソーダライムガラスAS、厚さ1.1mm)上に、線径0.05mmのワイヤーバーで塗布した後、遠赤外線を用い約80℃で乾燥させて、ITO膜を成膜した。

【0040】次に、その上に250メッシュの版を用いスクリーン印刷法によりレジスト液を5×50mm角の大きさに印刷し、約100℃でこれを乾燥硬化させた。乾燥後のレジスト層の厚さは約6μmであった。レジスト液は、アクリル樹脂をイソホロンに溶解した液を用い、アクリル樹脂33重量%のものを用いた。

【0041】その後、純水で洗浄した。この洗浄により、レジスト液が印刷されていない部分のITOは簡単に洗い流され、レジスト液が印刷された部分だけがガラス基板上に残った。これを大気中550℃で30分加熱してレジスト樹脂を酸分解させた後、窒素雰囲気下550℃で15分間加熱し、これを冷却して透明導電膜の回路パターンを得た。

【0042】図6は既述した各実施例および比較例で得られたITO膜の特性を示す表である。なお、ITOの特性の測定において、透過率は日立製作所(株)製U-3400型自記記録分光光度計にて波長400nmから700nmの測定を行い、1nm毎の透過率の値を平均化した値である。また、表面抵抗および抵抗率の値は、三菱油化(株)製ローレスタMCP-T400により、また、膜厚は、TENCOR社製ALPHA-STEPにて測定した。なお、実施例2では、線幅が細いため、透過率の測定は不可能であった。

【0043】そして、この表からも明らかなように、透明導電インクをインクジェットにて吐出することにより、従来のスクリーン印刷法にて形成された透明導電回路に比べて膜厚、表面抵抗及び抵抗率の優れた透明導電回路を形成することができる。

【0044】

【発明の効果】以上のように本発明によれば、基板上にインク吐出手段にて透明導電インクを吐出することにより、比較的低温で低抵抗の透明導電回路を作成することができる。また、透明導電インクをダイレクトに基板に吐出して透明導電回路を形成することにより、フォトリ

ソグラフィー技術やスクリーン印刷に比べて工数を少なくすることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施の形態に係る透明導電回路形成装置の構成を示す図。

【図2】上記透明導電回路形成装置のインクジェットの構造を説明する図。

【図3】上記インクジェットのヘッドの一例を示す図。

【図4】上記インクジェットにて形成される透明導電回路パターンの一例を示す図。

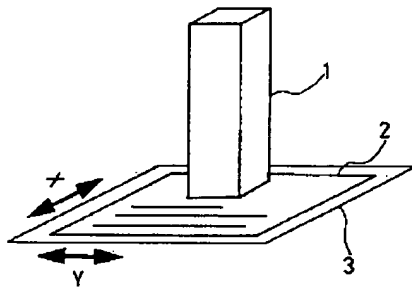
【図5】上記透明導電回路パターンの他の一例を示す図。

【図6】各実施例及び比較例で得られたITO膜の特性を示す図表。

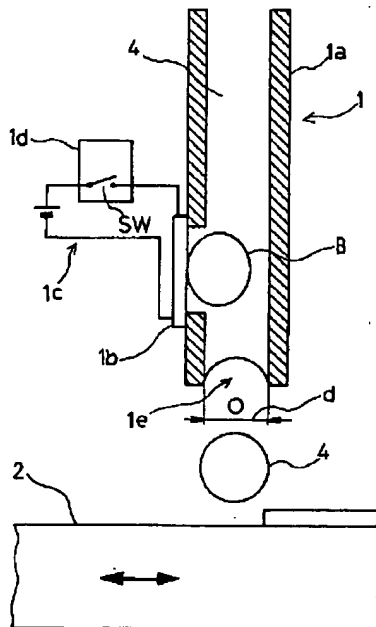
【符号の説明】

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | インクジェット |
| 1e | 吐出口 |
| 2 | 基板 |
| 4 | 透明導電インク |
| 5 | 透明導電回路 |
| d | インクジェットのインク吐出口径 |

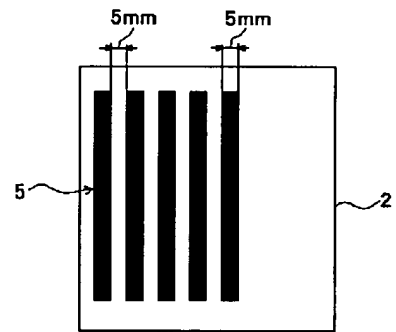
【図1】



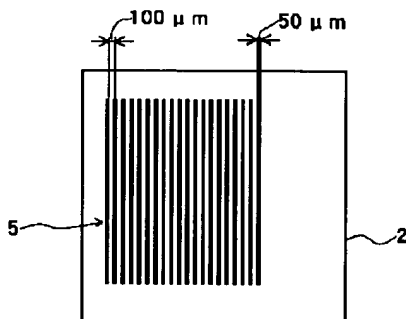
【図2】



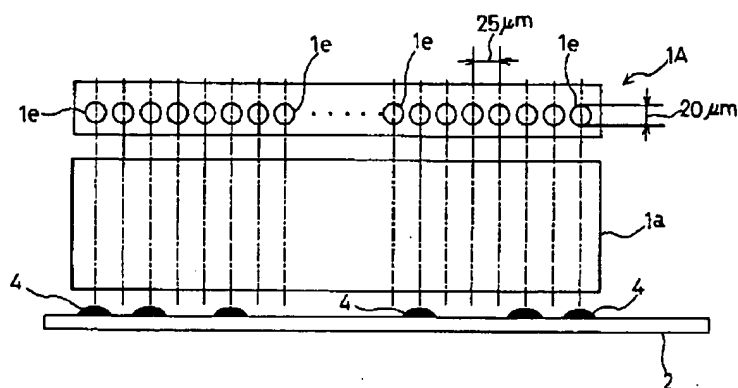
【図4】



【図5】



【図3】



【図6】

	膜厚 (nm)	表面抵抗 (Ω/\square)	抵抗率($\times 10^{-4}$) ($\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$)	透過率 (%)	ITO膜のパターン形成状態
実施例 1	300	38.3	11.5	81	良好
実施例 2	300	47.7	14.3	—	良好
実施例 3	250	8.8	2.2	83	良好
実施例 4	250	10.4	2.6	84	良好
実施例 5	500	4.4	2.2	75	良好
比較例 1	800	92.0	73.6	68	良好

PAT-NO: JP409320363A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 09320363 A

TITLE: TRANSPARENT CONDUCTIVE CIRCUIT FORMING DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: December 12, 1997

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NAME

SAKAMOTO, JUNICHI

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

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COUNTRY

CANON INC

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APPL-NO: JP08140476

APPL-DATE: June 3, 1996

INT-CL (IPC): H01B013/00, B41J002/01 , H05K001/09 , H05K003/12

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a transparent conductive circuit forming device which does not require many processes, and can form a transparent conductive circuit of a low resistance at a relatively low temperature.

SOLUTION: By discharging a transparent conductive ink 4 which is formed by dispersing ultramicroparticles formed of a transparent conductive material in a solvent, by using a discharge means 1, a transparent conductive circuit is pattern formed on a base plate 2. When a transparent conductive circuit is pattern formed by a transparent conductive ink including ultramicroparticles formed of an oxide type transparent conductive material, a transparent conductive circuit of a low resistance is formed by heat processing the transparent conductive circuit by heating the base plate 2.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing showing the configuration of the transference electric conduction circuit formation equipment concerning the gist of operation of this invention.

[Drawing 2] Drawing explaining the structure of the ink jet of the above-mentioned transference electric conduction circuit formation equipment.

[Drawing 3] Drawing showing an example of the head of the above-mentioned ink jet.

[Drawing 4] Drawing showing an example of the transference electric conduction circuit pattern formed in the above-mentioned ink jet.

[Drawing 5] Drawing showing other examples of the above-mentioned transference electric conduction circuit pattern.

[Drawing 6] The graph showing the property of the ITO film obtained in each example and the example of a comparison.

[Description of Notations]

1 Ink Jet

1e Delivery

2 Substrate

4 Transference Electric Conduction Ink

5 Transference Electric Conduction Circuit

d The diameter of an ink delivery of an ink jet

[Translation done.]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Transparence electric-conduction circuit formation equipment characterized by to have the transparence electric-conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the transparent conductive ingredient in the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate, and the ink regurgitation means which breathes out said transparence electric-conduction ink and carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric-conduction circuit on said substrate.

[Claim 2] The transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient in the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate, Transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment characterized by heating said substrate and heat-treating this transparence electric conduction circuit after having breathed out said transparence electric conduction ink, having the ink regurgitation means which carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric conduction circuit and forming said transparence electric conduction circuit by said ink regurgitation means on said substrate.

[Claim 3] The transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient in the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate, By carrying out the regurgitation of said transparence electric conduction ink on the this heated substrate, while having the ink regurgitation means which breathes out said transparence electric conduction ink and carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric conduction circuit on said substrate and heating said substrate Transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment characterized by heat-treating this transparence electric conduction circuit while forming said transparence electric conduction circuit.

[Claim 4] Said ultrafine particle is transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment according to claim 1 to 3 characterized by being the particle formed in the particle size of 0.1 micrometers or less.

[Claim 5] The thickness of said transparence electric conduction circuit is transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment according to claim 1 to 3 characterized by the ability to change according to the content of the ultrafine particle of the aperture of the delivery of said regurgitation means, the count of the regurgitation, and said transparence electric conduction ink.

[Claim 6] Said heat treatment is transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by carrying out by being below the predetermined temperature at which oxidation of said transparence electric conduction circuit is suppressed.

[Claim 7] It is transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment according to claim 2 or 3 characterized by performing said heat treatment at the temperature of 300 degrees C or less.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the formation approach of a transparence electric conduction circuit especially about the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Generally, in the liquid crystal display, the plasma display, the solar battery, etc., in order to perform various actuation, it has the transparence electric conduction circuit. Here, after forming a transparence electric conduction membrane layer by sputtering or vacuum evaporation, for example, using a sintered compact as the formation approach of such a transparence electric conduction circuit, the method of performing patterning on a substrate using photolithography is learned. However, since, as for patterning by such photolithography, the process of a large number, such as resist spreading, exposure, development, etching, resist exfoliation, and washing, is needed, the manufacturing cost of a transparence electric conduction circuit becomes high.

[0003] On the other hand, as an approach of forming a transparence electric conduction circuit, the transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the end of superfines is applied on a substrate, and is calcinated, and the approach of forming the transparence electric conduction film is being developed in recent years. Moreover, the approach of obtaining a transparence electric conduction circuit is proposed by JP,5-291726,A etc. by calcinating, after stiffening resist liquid and washing this by printing resist liquid and drying on a transparence electric conduction membrane layer, after applying.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, in the conventional transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit using such transparence electric conduction ink, in order to carry out oxidative degradation of the resist resin, a baking process 300 degrees C or more is needed. However, since the heat-resistant temperature of a color filter is below burning temperature when forming a transparence electric conduction circuit on the color filter of the color type used for the display of a liquid crystal display, for example, the problem that a filter will decolorize in this baking process arises.

[0005] Moreover, when ITO ($\text{In}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SnO}_2$) present most often used as a transparence electrical conducting material is used, above 300 degrees C, oxidation of the ITO film is promoted and the problem that resistivity rises is produced. Furthermore, in order to have performed postbake upwards and to screen-stencil, acrylic resin permeates even an ITO ink layer and the problem of being difficult has also performed low resistance-ization.

[0006] In addition, loaded with and heated the mixture of In and Sn in KUNUDOSONSERU placed into the vacuum, carried out adiabatic expansion from the slit of a cel, refined the cluster of In and Sn, this was made to blow off from a nozzle with high pressure, and the proposal which forms the transparence electric conduction film on the substrate placed into the oxygen ambient atmosphere has accomplished

(JP,62-24505,A, 24506). However, by this approach, two rooms, a membrane formation room and a cluster purification room, are needed, and since equipment is not only enlarged, but a membrane formation rate cannot be enlarged, there is a fault of starting circuit formation for a long time.

[0007] This invention aims at offering the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which does not solve the problem of such a conventional technique, and does not need many processes, and can form the transparence electric conduction circuit of low resistance at low temperature comparatively.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention is characterized by having the transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the transparent conductive ingredient, and the ink regurgitation means which breathes out said transparence electric conduction ink and carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric conduction circuit on said substrate in the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate.

[0009] Moreover, this invention is set to the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate. The transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient, It is characterized by heating said substrate and heat-treating this transparence electric conduction circuit, after having breathed out said transparence electric conduction ink, having the ink regurgitation means which carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric conduction circuit and forming said transparence electric conduction circuit by said ink regurgitation means on said substrate.

[0010] Moreover, this invention is set to the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment which forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate. The transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient, By carrying out the regurgitation of said transparence electric conduction ink on the this heated substrate, while having the ink regurgitation means which breathes out said transparence electric conduction ink and carries out pattern formation of said transparence electric conduction circuit on said substrate and heating said substrate While forming said transparence electric conduction circuit, it is characterized by heat-treating this transparence electric conduction circuit.

[0011] Moreover, this invention is characterized by said ultrafine particle being a particle formed in the particle size of 0.1 micrometers or less.

[0012] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the ability to change the thickness of said transparence electric conduction circuit according to the content of the ultrafine particle of the aperture of the delivery of said regurgitation means, the count of the regurgitation, and said transparence electric conduction ink.

[0013] Moreover, this invention is characterized by performing said heat treatment by being below the predetermined temperature at which oxidation of said transparence electric conduction circuit is suppressed.

[0014] Moreover, this invention is characterized by performing said heat treatment at the temperature of 300 degrees C or less.

[0015] Moreover, pattern formation of the transparence electric conduction circuit is carried out on a substrate by constituting so that the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the transparent conductive ingredient like this invention may be carried out with an ink regurgitation means.

[0016] Moreover, while carrying out pattern formation of the transparence electric conduction circuit on the substrate by carrying out the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient with an ink regurgitation means, after a transparence electric conduction circuit is formed, by heating a substrate, a transparence electric conduction circuit is heat-treated and the transparence electric

conduction circuit of low resistance is formed.

[0017] Moreover, while heating a substrate, by carrying out the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink which makes a solvent come to distribute the ultrafine particle formed with the oxide system transparent conductive ingredient with an ink regurgitation means, a transparence electric conduction circuit is heat-treated and the pattern of the transparence electric conduction circuit of low resistance is formed on a substrate.

[0018] Moreover, the thickness of the transparence electric conduction circuit by which pattern formation was carried out is changed according to the content of the ultrafine particle of the aperture of the delivery of a regurgitation means, the count of the regurgitation, and transparence electric conduction ink. Furthermore, it is below predetermined temperature and oxidation of a transparence electric conduction circuit is suppressed by heat-treating.

[0019]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained using a drawing.

[0020] Drawing 1 is drawing showing the configuration of the transparence electric conduction circuit formation equipment concerning the gestalt of operation of this invention, and the ink jet which is an ink regurgitation means by which 1 carries out the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink in this drawing, the substrate arranged so that the ink delivery of an ink jet 1 might be faced 2, and 3 are X-Y stages which move this substrate 2 in the direction of X-Y.

[0021] Here, as shown in drawing 2, an ink jet 1 heats transparence electric conduction ink (henceforth ink) 4, generates Bubble B, and it forms a transparence electric conduction circuit on a substrate 2 by making a substrate 2 breathe out ink 4 using the pressure of the bubble B.

[0022] In addition, this ink jet 1 has 1d of regurgitation control means which turn on and off the switch SW of ink stowage 1a with which ink 4 is filled up as shown in this drawing, sheet heater 1b which heats ink 4, power supply section 1c which supplies a power source to this sheet heater 1b, and this power supply section 1c, and control the count of the regurgitation (regurgitation frequency).

[0023] By the way, the thickness of the transparence electric conduction circuit formed by this ink jet 1 is determined by the content of the size of the diameter d of an ink delivery of an ink jet 1, the regurgitation frequency of ink 4, and the ultrafine particle powder of ink 4. For example, when the ink 4 of hypoviscosity is breathed out once from delivery 1e of small aperture, it can be made about 0.1-micrometer thickness. In addition, when thickening thickness as occasion demands, for example, as 1d of regurgitation control means increases the count of the regurgitation, it is made to thicken thickness.

[0024] On the other hand, this transparence electric conduction ink 4 makes a compatibility solvent or water distribute the ultrafine particle powder in which particle size was formed with the transparence electrical conducting material 0.1 micrometers or less, and viscosity is about 50-100cps. In addition, as such ultrafine particle powder, oxides, such as ZnO, CdO, ZnS, CdS, SnO₂, InO₂, Cd₂ SnO₄, and ITO (In₂ O₃-SnO₂), are used. Especially, ITO is desirable in respect of light permeability and surface electrical resistance.

[0025] Moreover, the solvent used for transparent conductive ink 4 is selected in consideration of compatibility with ultrafine particle powder material. Or it is also possible to distribute water compulsorily with a crusher, an ultrasonic distribution machine, etc. of marketing, such as a colloid mill, a ball mill, a sand mill, and a homomixer. Furthermore, a substrate 2 can use glass, a ceramic or an acrylic, a polyimide film, etc. that what is necessary is just what has the thermal resistance of 300 degrees C or less.

[0026] And if a transparence electric conduction ink pattern is made to **** after performing patterning to a substrate 2 using an ink jet 1 in this way, a uniform transparence electric conduction circuit will be formed and it will come to stick with a substrate 2 by the strength which is extent which does not separate simply.

[0027] By the way, since the structure of a circuit is crystallized while it is made to heat-treat below 300 degrees C if needed and the residual solvent of a circuit volatilizes more completely by this heat treatment when the ultrafine particle powder contained in this transparence electric conduction ink 4 is

an oxide system, the transparence electric conduction circuit of low resistance comes to be formed.

[0028] the temperature of 300 degrees C or less this heat treatment of whose is predetermined temperature at which oxidation of a transparence electric conduction circuit is suppressed here -- what is necessary is just to carry out about 120 minutes from several minutes below 250 degrees C preferably In addition, in this equipment, since resist liquid is not used, the transparence electric conduction circuit of low resistance can be formed such comparatively at low temperature.

[0029] And compared with what turns into a thing of uniform transparence and does not have heat treatment, it comes to stick still more firmly the transparence electric conduction ink pattern formed of such heat treatment with a substrate 2. In addition, when this heat treatment is performed at the temperature of 300 degrees C or more, in order that oxidation of ink 4 may be promoted and the structure of an ingredient may approach stoichiometry, carrier concentration decreases and resistivity comes to rise greatly. For this reason, it is necessary to be made to perform heat treatment below 300 degrees C.

[0030] Next, the example in the gestalt of this operation is explained.

[0031] As the 1st example, the ink 4 which carried out churning distribution of the 5 % of the weight of the ITO ultrafine particle powder formed elements with a particle size of 25nm by the sand mill for 4 hours at a rate of 60 % of the weight of water, 20 % of the weight of n-methyl pyrrolidones, and 15 % of the weight of ethylene glycol was breathed out on the acrylic substrate 2 with a thickness of 1mm by the ink jet 1, and the pattern was formed.

[0032] In addition, aperture [of delivery 1e / of 20 micrometers] and pitch 25micrometer and delivery 1e made it breathe out on the regurgitation frequency of 1000Hz as a head of an ink jet 1, using multi-head 1A located in a line on the 100-point straight line, as shown in drawing 3 . Moreover, the pattern configuration printed five Rhine with a line breadth [of 5mm], and a line spacing of 5mm in parallel, as shown in drawing 4 . This was ****(ed) in atmospheric air for 24 hours, and the pattern of the transparence electric conduction circuit 5 was obtained.

[0033] As the 2nd example, with the same configuration as an example 1, as shown in drawing 5 , 20 Rhine whose pattern configurations are the line breadth of 50 micrometers and the line spacing of 100 micrometers was printed in parallel, and the pattern of the transparence electric conduction circuit 5 was obtained.

[0034] The ink 4 which carried out stirring distribution of the 5% of the ITO ultrafine particle powder formed element weight with a particle size of 20nm with the ultrasonic distribution vessel by using water as a solvent as the 3rd example for 2 hours was breathed out by the ink jet 1 on the alkali-free-glass (#7059) substrate 2 by Corning, Inc., and the pattern was formed. In addition, the pattern configuration printed five Rhine with a line breadth [of 5mm], and a line spacing of 5mm in parallel using what has the head [be / the same as that of an example 1 / it] of an ink jet 1 (refer to drawing 4). This was heated at the temperature of 200 degrees C after 30-minute **** hardening by 95 degrees C for 1 hour, and the pattern of a transparence electric conduction circuit was obtained.

[0035] The ink 4 which carried out churning distribution of the 5% of the ITO ultrafine particle powder formed element weight with a particle size of 20nm with the ultrasonic distribution vessel by using water as a solvent as the 4th example for 2 hours was breathed out by the ink jet 1 on the alkali-free-glass (#7059) substrate 2 by Corning, Inc., and the pattern was formed.

[0036] Here, in this example, the substrate 2 was placed on the hot plate during pattern formation by the ink jet 1, and it heated at 250 degrees C. In addition, using what has the head [be / the same as that of an example 1 / it] of an ink jet, the pattern configuration printed five Rhine with a line breadth [of 5mm], and a line spacing of 5mm in parallel (refer to drawing 4), and obtained the pattern of a transparence electric conduction circuit.

[0037] As the 5th example, the ink which carried out churning distribution of the 5 % of the weight of the ITO ultrafine particle powder formed elements with a particle size of 100nm by the sand mill for 4 hours at a rate of 60 % of the weight of water, 20 % of the weight of n-methyl pyrrolidones, and 15 % of the weight of ethylene glycol was breathed out by the ink jet 1 on the alkali-free-glass (#7059) substrate 3 by Corning, Inc., and the pattern was formed.

[0038] In addition, the multi-head to which 50 micrometer [of diameters of a delivery] and pitch 50micrometer, the regurgitation frequency of 2000Hz, and the delivery were located in a line on 100 points and a straight line was used for the head of an ink jet 1. The pattern configuration printed 20 Rhine with a line breadth [of 5mm], and a line spacing of 5mm in parallel. Here, as this example, this was heated at the temperature of 200 degrees C after 30-minute desiccation hardening by 95 degrees C for 1 hour, and the pattern of a transparence electric conduction circuit was obtained.

[0039] On the other hand, as 1st example of a comparison, after applying the transparence electric conduction ink (DXMade from northeast chemically-modified- 101) which makes an organic solvent come to distribute ITO ultrafine particle powder with a particle size of 30nm with the wire bar of 0.05mm of wire sizes on a glass substrate (1.1mm in the soda lime glass AS by Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., thickness), it was made to dry at about 80 degrees C using far infrared rays, and the ITO film was formed.

[0040] Next, the version of 250 meshes was used on it, resist liquid was printed in the magnitude of 5x50mm angle with screen printing, and desiccation hardening of this was carried out at about 100 degrees C. The thickness of the resist layer after desiccation was about 6 micrometers. The thing of 33 % of the weight of acrylic resin was used for resist liquid using the liquid which dissolved acrylic resin in the isophorone.

[0041] Then, pure water washed. ITO of the part by which resist liquid is not printed was simply flushed by this washing, and only the part by which resist liquid was printed remained on the glass substrate by it. After heating this at 550 degrees C among atmospheric air for 30 minutes and carrying out oxidative degradation of the resist resin, it heated for 15 minutes at 550 degrees C under nitrogen-gas-atmosphere mind, this was cooled, and the circuit pattern of the transparence electric conduction film was obtained.

[0042] Drawing 6 is the table showing the property of the ITO film obtained in each example and the example of a comparison which were mentioned already. In addition, in measurement of the property of ITO, permeability is the value which performed 700nm measurement from the wavelength of 400nm with the account recording spectrophotometer of type U-3400 ** by Hitachi, Ltd., and equalized the value of the permeability in every nm. Moreover, the value of surface electrical resistance and resistivity measured thickness in ALPHA-STEP made from TENCOR again by Law Lester MC rho-T 400 by Mitsubishi Petrochemical Co., Ltd. In addition, in the example 2, since line breadth was thin, measurement of permeability was impossible.

[0043] And the transparence electric conduction circuit which was excellent in thickness, surface electrical resistance, and resistivity compared with the transparence electric conduction circuit formed with the conventional screen printing can be formed by carrying out the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink in an ink jet so that clearly also from this table.

[0044]

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the transparence electric conduction circuit of low resistance can be comparatively created at low temperature as mentioned above by carrying out the regurgitation of the transparence electric conduction ink with an ink regurgitation means on a substrate. Moreover, compared with a photolithography technique or screen-stencil, a man day can be lessened by breathing out transparence electric conduction ink to a substrate direct, and forming a transparence electric conduction circuit.

[Translation done.]